

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

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Motorcyclist Critically Injured In Collision on I-5 in Snohomish County

A woman from Cortez, Colorado, was critically injured when she lost control of her motorcycle on southbound Interstate 5 at the exit to eastbound State Route 2. The motorcycle crashed and she was ejected from the motorcycle.

On September 5 at 10:07 a.m. the State Patrol received reports that a motorcycle had crashed on the exit lane from southbound Interstate 5 to eastbound State Route 2. According to witnesses, 69 year old Joanne W. Ellie of Cortez, Colorado, was driving her black 2006 Yamaha motorcycle southbound on Interstate 5 in the right lane when she attempted to exit to eastbound State Route 2. Ellie lost control of the motorcycle and it went down. Ellie was ejected from her motorcycle.

Ellie suffered critical injuries at the scene and was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Investigators are still trying to determine why Ellie was unable to maintain control of her motorcycle.

This collision is in line with a disturbing trend of motorcycle collisions in Washington State. Since 1994, motorcycle fatalities have almost doubled in Washington. Of the motorcycle fatalities that the Washington State Patrol has investigated this year, 75 percent were caused by the motorcyclist and 39 percent involved only one vehicle-the motorcyclist. The inability to maintain control of the motorcycle in the lane of travel is the leading cause of motorcycle fatalities in Washington. The majority of the motorcycle fatalities occur between April and September, during the daytime in good weather conditions. This collision is directly in line with the state wide trend.

The Washington State Patrol encourages motorcyclist to take approved motorcycle safety courses prior to riding. Motorcyclists are reminded that the Washington State Patrol has a zero tolerance policy of operating a motorcycle without an endorsement.

Next Of Kin Have Been Notified